Change in the procedures in MPLADS

890. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether cheques are handed over to a Panchayats or other institutions through the concerned Members of Parliament for the work done under MPs Local Area Development Schemes (MPLADS);

(b) whether there is any change in the procedure made by Government recently; and

(c) if so, the reasons for changing the procedure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) Under the MPLAD Scheme, funds are released by this Ministry directly to the concerned District Collector who is to ensure implementation of works recommended by the MPs. This has to be done in accordance with established procedure laid down by the State Government for normal State Government work. The payments to the implementing agencies are made by District Collector in accordance with established procedure. There is no provision in the guidelines on MPLADS for sending the cheques through Members of Parliament.

Estimated Growth of GDP

891. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what was the estimated growth of Gross Domestic Product during the current year;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have failed to achieve the target; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The growth of Gross Domestic Product during the current year 1999-2000 is estimated at 5.9 per cent.

(b) The yearly targets of Gross Domestic Product are not fixed. However, the targets are fixed as an average of the Five Year Plan period. The Ninth Five Year Plan has set the target of GDP growth as 6.5% per year as an average of the five year period, 1997—2002.

(c) In view of (b) above, does not arise.

Problems in spending MPLADS fund due to applicability of code of conduct

†892. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to enforcement of code of conduct during the elections of Lok Sabha, State Assembly and autonomous institutes being conducted by the Centre and State Governments, problem is faced in spending the amount under the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme and whether any proposal is being considered by Government for resolving the same;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor, particularly, in case of such Members of Parliament whose term is going to be completed in the current year itself?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

† Original notice of the question received in Hindi.